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Sen. Birkholz awaits groundwater mapping findings

LANSING – Sen. Patty Birkholz, Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee, today said she is looking forward to reviewing the findings of groundwater mapping conducted by the United States Geological Survey Division on Friday at the Senate Committee hearing to be conducted at Saginaw Valley State University.

“I am anxious to see how Michigan’s groundwater is doing and to find out where we have ample supply and where there are inadequate amounts,” said Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township. “We requested this study to develop a complete map of Michigan’s groundwater supply. We want to develop an inventory of the groundwater based on sound science so that as we move forward on groundwater issues we have an understanding of the extent of this natural resource that is vital to our citizens.”

Public Act 148 of 2003 required the Department of Environmental Quality to develop a comprehensive inventory of Michigan’s aquifers before any new water regulations were developed. The DEQ contracted with the United States Geological Survey Division to conduct the mapping.

“After tomorrow we should have a better understanding of where there are good supplies of groundwater in the state,” Birkholz said. “This information will be highly useful for future planning and development.”

The Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Committee will conduct a hearing Friday, August 5, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Saginaw Valley State University ES122 Regional Education Center to hear the departmental testimony and to receive public input on water withdrawal issues which are of concern to citizens across Michigan.

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